M. Dumas on Himself. From the Athenaum.

Panis, November, 1865,-Dear old Dumas! His tongue can chatter on every subject. While he is elaborating a romance in the Court of Louis the Thirteenth he finds time to chat on every other subject, grave or gay, and in some way to connect himself with it. He must put his mark even on the cholera. Being asked for one of his charming bits of egotism tacked to some subject of the moment, he sets up a little lite. rary flirtation with the prevailing epidemic. He is not afraid of it. He, the great Dumas! He had it to begin with in 1832, and cured himself by swallowing a glass of ether, mistaking it for Kirchenwasser. The cholera departed, but left him in its stead inflammation of the stomach. This is not, therefore, a remedy which he recommends. He has a remedy, however, and he intends, in the course of his gossip, to give it to the reader. But here peeps up the slyness of the great Alexandre, wherein he reminds us toreibly of Mangin, who pattered over his pencils so many years in the public places of Paris, Having arrested the attention of his audience by raising their hopes of obtaining a sovereign cure for the cholera gratis, the farceur begs a little patience for a fait personnel

Dumas is publishing an historical romance called "Le Comte de Meret," in the new half-penny journal. Les Nouvelles. He has been accused by Le Figaro of having sent a litho-graphed circular to the twelve hundred editors of France on his new work, in order to save the proprietors of Les Nouvelles the expense of paid pulls (reclames payardes). Dumas, with a smile, putts (reclames payantes). Dunnes, with a distributed declares that, in the first place, he did not send twelve hundred, but only one hundred such letters, and that these were not lithographed, but were written with his own hand. "You may were written with his own hand. "You may lauch," he says; "it may appear incredible; but this is my ridiculous sensitiveness of conscience, and has always been. On one occasion I was asked for my autograph in aid of the sick and wounded on the Federal side. The applicant wrote to me that my autograph would certainly sell for 1000 francs. I set to work and sent off a hundred autographs, each including an idea or something like it and all written but the other. something like it, and all written, be it under-

stood, with my own hand."

And now for a superb bit from the great Alexandre:— 'Tue number did harm to the sale, and the lady patronesses only realized 60,000 trancs by them. They contented themselves with this sum. For myself, I swear to you that I considered my autographs had sold very well. I once proclaimed to the readers of the Petit Journal' (the readers of the Athenaum may re-member this circumstance, which I touched upon at the time) "that I was about to publish a volume of bouls-rimes, and that every subscriber to the book would receive my autograph. Three thousand subscribers responded. I wrote three thousand autographs! Let them be submitted to any experts, They will be accepted as written by my own hand."

Our lively Alexandre has other instances: how he provided Moue, the Havre sallor, who had saved many lives, with 500 francs, by writing a thousand autographs and fixing their price at twenty-five centimes. They were sold, he tells us, within twenty-four hours. Out of this he got only the pleasure, he admits that it is a great contract. only the pleasure—he admits that it is a great one—of doing good. His pen is ever at work in the cause of charity; it is he who tells us so. And then he asks, "Can there be as much pleasure in writing an article against a man as there is in throwing off a literary trifle to help a sick, or wounded, or poor fellow-creature?" For him self, he cannot tell, having only tried the charitable writing. You see, a stealthy way of doing good is not M. Dumas' way. Let us grant him, in justice, this: that he is so good-tempered and kindly over his self-glorification, and he has so ingenious and happy a way of insinuating his point and carrying the purpose of his gossip, even in the teeth of his enemies, that the three syllables of the word "charlatan" cannot all rise to the lips of the readers of his gossip. All this gossip, for instance, is to conciliate provincial editors, and to let them know that they are, one and all, the chers confreres of Alexandre Dumas;

and that this noblesse oblige.

I have said that there is a bonhomie in Dumas! most outrageous puffs of himself or others. We are sorry to see the old gentleman parading his little services and boasting the value of autographs, or making a show of himself at the Petit Journal office, or pufsing some book or establishment. At the same time we must own that he is the gayest, the most amusing, and good-natured Mondeur Puff in the world. By his side all other professors of the noble art of puffing are small and awkward.

A Curious Trial in France. THE CUSTODY OF OFFICIAL PAPERS.

The Paris correspondent of the London Star

"A most curious trial has just taken place in consequence of the death of an old lady, Mad'lle de Serilly, who died last February at Theil. You are aware that on the death of public function-aries the State has a right to take possession of their papers, manuscripts, and documents of all kinds, and abstract therefrom whatever may refer to public affairs. Mad'lle de Serrilly had carefully preserved an immense number of official papers which had been handed down in her family from one generation to another. She possessed 630 gocuments referring to the adminstration of one of her ancestors, M. d'Etigny, who was prefect of Auch during the last century 439 papers bearing on the life of another d'Etigny who was Governor of Bearn during the reign Louis XIV; furthermore, several papers signed by Louis XV, and countersigned by Choisseul; letters from the Count de Toulouse, from Marshal d'Etrees, etc. etc.
"M. le Prefet d'Yonne, in the name of Govern-

ment, claimed one and all of these family papers. Last year the Tribunai of Sens tried the case, and delivered a verdict in favor of the De Serilly family. The prefect appealed to the Paris courts, and, to the infinite satisfaction of those who possess family archives of any historic interest, the prefect has lost his cause. Six hundred papers, however, referring to the administration of a sub-prefect actually living, administration of a sub-prefect actually living, are to be given up to Government. To this the family never objected. M. Oscar de Vallons made an able speech, which is worthy of study for those curious in French law. He clearly explained that the only motive that actuated Government in such a case was its anxiety to preserve historic records for the use of the public in general; but, as he justly remarked, if in this instance a verdict were given against the heirs of Mad'lle de Serilly, every family would be exposed to the chances of having their muni-ment chest rifled by Government at any moment,

and their most private documents taken. "The publicity to which death exposes family in France is very singular to our English ideas. The moment your relative expires it becomes your duty to send for the medecin legiste, who inspects the dead body and notifies to the preject the fact of his decease. In a few hours the police commissary arrives and seals up every drawer, secretaire, and possession of your late relative. These seals can only be removed after the family council, as it is called, have met, and read the will of the deceased in presence of a public functionary. An instance of the extreme inconvenience to which this practice leads came under my own notice in the case of an English lady whose bushand had been pasteur of a church in the neighborhood of Paris. From the fact of her brother being absent from home and travelling at the time of the demise of the pasteur, the family council could not meet for six weeks, during which interval the lady had not even access to her own writing drawer or the power of withdrawing certain moneys belonging to herself independently of her late

Cholera Leaving Havre.—Our Consul at Havre, writing to the State Department underdate of December 18, 1865, says that since the date of his last despatch in reference to the cholera at that port, there had occurred eight cases of cholera and four deaths, among the very poor and destitute classes. No reports are published, and no paule or excitament evisits. shed, and no panic or excitement exists there; nor have there been any cases among

Ignorance in France.

A map entitled "Carte de l'Instruction Publique," purporting to show the state of primary education in France, by M. J. Manier, on the plan of that which Baron Charles Dupin published thirty years ago, has just been issued in Paris. It appears to be founded on official documents; and is, if its accuracy can be depended upon, an interesting and instructive production. The departments are marked by different colors, which serve to indicate the intellectual develop ment of the inhabitants. Of these colors there are nine—white, red, orange, yellow, green, light blue, dark blue, violet, and dark brown. The author takes for his basis the maximum number of conscripts drawn from 1857 to 1861 who could neither read nor write. The most highly favored departments are the white; the most backward, the dark brown. Thus, in four departments colored white, there were only 6 per cent, who could neither read nor write; in 16, tinted red, there were 10 per cent, in the same state of ignorance; in 6, orange, 15; in 8, yellow, 20; in 6, green, 25; in 9, light blue, 30; in 13, dark blue, 35; in 8, viotet, 40; in 25, dark brown, 66—that is to say, in a territory comprising more than one-fourth of France there are 66 ont of 100 male adults ignorant of the most elementary rudiments of instruction. The largest of the dark stains, significant of the greatest ignorance, is given to Brittany. Of 100 male adults fiable to be called out to serve in the ranks of the army from 46 departments, there are from 30 to 66 who cannot read or write. Of 100 marriages contracted in France, 30 men and 45 women cannot sign their names in the civil registers, but only make their marks. In 1863, 657,401 children left school to return to it no more; of that number 40 per cent, knew hardly anything; and in the same year the approximate number of children from 7 to 13 years who never went to school at all was about 600,000. Fourteen departments occupy a more favor-

able position in the list; for out of 100 conscripts drawn from them, there were from 90 to 96 who could read. The departments so distinguished are the Doubs, Haute-Marne, Meuse, Bas-Rhin, Meurthe, Jura, Moselle, Vosges, Aube, Seine, Haut-Rhin, Haute-Saone, Cote d'Or, and Hautes-

Alpes.
For the last thirty or forty years a certain improvement is to be noticed. From 1827 to 1831 the average number of the whole population completely ignorant was 54 per cent.;

"Let the Government and individuals be persuaded that the best and most productive invest-ment they can make is the appropriating the best part of their resources to founding schools. Education is the most solid guarantee of internal order, and the most effective instrument of national wealth."

A Remarkable Acrobat in London. The performances of a new acrobat are thus noted by the London Herald:-

"A most singular addition has just been made to the already long list of popular entertainments at the Crystal Palace. Shortly after four o'clock yesterday Signor Ethardo astonished the visitors of the building by a gymnastic or acrobatic test, which he is said to have performed some time since with great success at Florence before King Victor Emanuel, and which must excite the surprise of every person by whom it may be witnessed. Some preparation was required for the exhibition. A strong pole, some forty or fifty teet high, was erected in the front portion of the Handel orchestra, and round this was run a spiral column, connected with the ground beneath by a long spur having an incline of about thirty degrees. This spur and the winding line in which it terminated, consisted simply of a stout boarding, perfectly flat, not more than twelve inches broad, and fastened in its upper portion to the central mast or rose by slight iron girders. At one side of the platform was lying a round, light-colored globe, about two and a half feet or three feet in diameter. Signor Ethardo made his appearance at the appointed hour in the spangled costume of the Sprite at a pantomime, and, stepping on this ball, walked or danced upon it the whole of the way up the column, and descended again the entire space in the same extraordinary fashion. It was a most strange and bewildering exploit. It is true that he was able on two or three occasions to obtain a momentary rest by leaning on the girders which bind together the slender erection, but he never employed this resource for the purpose of propulsion. In his ascent he had to depend for a motive power solely on the strength and arility of his feet, which were, of course, at the same time, most busily employed in maintaining his shifting balance In the descent the ball was of necessity only too apt to rush downwards, and it was only by the most wonderful skill and care that its movement was checked and its direction was guided along the narrow and winding line to which its course was restricted. The singularity of the scene was here increased by the circumstance that the performer had to make his way backwards, the whole weight of his body being thrown as far as possible in the direction op posed to that which his unsteady support was tending. We believe that many people have already run about, and even passed along, slight elevations under the same difficult conditions; but Signor Ethardo is, as far as we are aware the first man who ever attempted to wind his way upon so persious a locomotive up and down a narrow and dizzy eminence. His teat was cer-tainly a most remarkable one, and seems to entitle him, in his own line, to almost as exceptional a place as that of Blondin himself in the acrobatic world."

Italian Newspapers and Literary Men. The Florence correspondent of the Chicago Journal writes as follows of the newspapers and literary men of Italy:---

"I suppose you have little notion how many newspapers we publish, and how weakly they are. We have ten political dailies, and about twenty other journals. In other cities there is the same proportions. But you can count on the fingers of one hand all the journals that would make a visible figure in the United States. The Perseveranzie, of Milan, is an excellent journal, which I like all the more for its common sense views of American matters. Its editorials sense views of American matters. Its editorials on the late war might have been written by a oval American.
The Opinions, late of Turin, now of Florence,

perhaps the next best journal in the kingdom. It is a microscopic copy of the London Times in spirit and purpose, and glorying in having no especial regard for that kind of truth which does not pay. The liberal organ of Florence is managed with a good deal of talent, and has a large circulation. These are perhaps the only journals we have that boast some approach to a national character, and there are nundreds of towns in the peninsula where not a copy of either is taken. I do not speak of the official Gazette,

for it cannot be called a newspaper—being simply a register of official acts. Our journals are all puny and subject to a large per cent. of mortality annually, rather for want of capital and readers than for want of journalistic talent among our literary men "The business is so small and mean the at only literary adventurers and reckless social originals engage in it. There are a few honors be excep-

tions, but the class is low among vas. Men o such ability and positions as those who conduct your journals would be ashamed to conduct a newspaper here, and if they did venture in the business, would be worse paid than mule-drivers. "But the number of lite rary men is very Half our tawyers and all our protessors dabble intak, though few of the an get beyond the Alps, I have been rather su prised to learn that the other sex have a large representation in letters, I have before me n aw a list of sixty female writers who are to contribute to a New Year's book to be published in Venice, and large as the list is for a country in which only two hundred and ten fem gles in a thousand can read, my personal knowledge of female writers engaged. my personal kno sledge of female writers enables me to extend the number to more than one hundred. Mad ame Enrichetta Caraccialo, an ex-nun, excited quite a sensation last year by her disclosures, of the secrets of monastic life, which have been translated into English, French, and German. She is expected to continue the suffect this year.

Grocers-Their Antiquity. The spice dealers, in the year 1231, in the city of London, formed a trading fraternity or guild under the name of "Pepperers," and continued until 1345, when they changed the name of their organization to that of "The Grocers'

Company." The earlier chroniclers of this ancient Company, in speaking of their origin, say:-"The word 'grocer' was a term first distinguishing merchants of this Society in opposition to inferior traders; for that they usually sold by wholes. To show the great honor of this Company, we remark that, from the year 1231 to 1650, upwards of eignty of its members have occupied the Lord Mayor's chair of the city of London. Five kings, several princes, eight dokes, three earls, and twenty lords are recorded upon their books as members. Many of the

present noblity of Great Britain trace their ancestry to members of this Company.

Sir John Chamberlain, grocer, was the founder of the present Custom House of London—(the total duties on all foreign goods imported into the realm, in 1268, gave a revenue of £75 6s. 10d. No class of citizens from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century did more to develope a better civilisation than these old grocers. If the King required money, they generally responded in full for their quota; Sir John Philpot, grocer, 1378, fitted out at his own expense a fleet of vessels to repress piracies; also, at his own expense, conveyed an entire army into Brittany, with ships. He was styled, whilst living, "the scourge of the Scots, the fright of the French, the delight of the commons, the darling of the merchants, and the hatred of envious lords, but who was at his death lamented, and afterwards beloved of all." Sir John Crosby, grocer, was the tounder of the present famous Crosby House, Bishop street gate, London—a man of wast wealth. The hospitals and charity schools built and endowed by these old grocer merchants were numerous. The motio of their guild is, "God Grant Grace."—Boston Advertiser,

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halt a million dollars. Two shafts have been sunk on this property, one of feet, the other 60 feet, on different velue, averaging from two to three seet in thickness, which

veins still costinue on down increasing in width and richness. These shafts are in good order, and ore can be readily taken out at any time. Other veins have been discovered on this property, and tested, and proved to be very rich in gold. The ores of this mine are known as the brown ore, and very rich, yleiding readily \$1 per bushel. This is believed to be one of the best and most certain mines in the State, on account of the abuncance and quality of the ore, and the case with which is is obtained and reducted. This property has been worked by Major Z A. Grier from 1840 to the breaking out of the war. This Company have purchased this property, and intend to erect machinery and put the prines in immediate operation. The many advantages of this mine over the mines of Colorado and Nevada dati hardly be estimated. It is more readily reached, and assiabundance of mel, with cheap labor. It can be worked all the year, and not, as in the case of Colorado and Nevada, be compelled to le id e for three or lour months in consequence of the severity of the winter. This mane baving teen worked for a long time proved to be a rich paying one. We do not, therefore, have to incur the risk there is in an undeveloped property, but can count on large and immediate returns on the investments. Having an ore that readly yields ten dollars per bushel, some estimate can be made of the value of this property. With the present imperfect system or mining in this locality, and absence of proper machinery, ten tons of this ore can be taken out daily from every shaft opened. Estimating say fi teen bushe's to the ton, the daily yield will be fitteen hundred dollars from one shaft, allowing three hundred dollars per day for expenses. The net product will be \$1200 per day; counting 300 working days to the year, the yearly proceeds will be \$360,000. which yield can be largely increased by extending the works. This is considered a very low estimate of the capacity of this mine by experienced miners of that locality. The Assayer of the United States Mint at Charlotte, in speaking of this property, says it has few equals in productiveness in that country, and with proper management and machinery the above product

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MARSHAL'S SALE-BY VIRTUE OF A Wari of saie by the Hon. John Cadwalader, Judge et the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, ie me directed, will be sold at public saie, to the highest and best bidger, for cash on the premises, 8 E. corner of BROAD and WALLACE Streets, on THUES-DAY, the 18th day of January, A. D. 1806, at 12 of clock Mai.

o'clock M.:—
35 barrels bmoking Tobacco,
1 Reger Steam Roller
2 Roger Cutting Machines, 1 Roger Press,
1 Steam Engine and Gauge,
1 Platform Scale lines Shafting and Beiting. Box and Tools.

Stoves, Emply Barrels, Empty Haif Barrels, barrei pure Yara; 1 bale, 90 pounds. box L quorice l'aste. lot Stems.

Drayton Machine. Drying Apparatus (pipes). Coffee Mill. Sen e.

1 packing Table and contents, 56 half barrels (hewing lotaceo.) 25 by Phiverized Liquorice.
9 cases and 4 by Kill Kinick, 124 bis. Smoking Tobacco.

6 btls, part full, Stems of Tobacco.
17 bbls, Stem Fobacco.
3 half bbls., part full, Chewing Tobacco.
252 bs. ta ed Tobacco. d Empty Barrels. ot Stea Pipes.

Fork.

1 Fork,
1 Stove.
1 ream large Wrappin, Paper.
20 Fmptv thaif Barrels
572 Its. Smoking Tobacco.
1 case Duscer Shorts.
1 bhd. Leaf Tobacco, with sample, No. 55 525.
1 bhd. Leaf Tobacco, with sample, No. 20 852,
1 bhd. Leaf Tobacco, with sample, No. 20 852,
1 bhd. Leaf Tobacco, with sample, No. 55,087.
1 bhd. Leaf Tobacco, No. 58,411, No. 55,087.

1 bbd. Leaf Tobacco, with sample, 1 bbd. Leaf Tobacco, No. 58,401.
1 bbd. Scraps, No. 58,277.
1 bbd. Leaf Tobacco, No. 52,252.
1 bbd. Leaf Tobacco, No. 71,578.
1 bbd. Leaf Tobacco, No. 58,968.
1 bbd. Leaf Tobacco, No. 58,268.
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1 and Scraps. 10 and Stems S. R., Nov. 211, 206, 205, 198, 212, 198, 201, 203, 209, 212. 200 pounds Scraps. 200 pounds Stems, 100 Staves 1 Lot Samples.

1 Lievator.
2 Heisting by Xes.
2 Caving bor ros.
1 Drying a sparatus.
1 Larrels 'Smoking Tobacco.
1 Desk, 'I rawers and cases.
1 Pair S pales. Pair S cales. Safe. Chr drs.

1 5' ove.
1 7 con Hat Rack.
7 Letter Press.
8 A ibs. Heartsease Smoking Tobacco.
80 ibs. Skating Club do do
277 ibs. Pure Yara do do

Steam Boiler. Shatting and Belt. 3 Cases Seed Leat Tobacco, 529, 98, 560. 1 Lot coal—one ton. 1 Horse. 1 Business Wagon.

1 Set Garness, 1 Straw Cutter. 2 Buckets, and other small articles.
P. C. ELLMAKER,
United States Marshal, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, January 2, 1866. 1 Swim6

MARSHAL'S SALE.—BY VIRTUE OF A writ of sale, by the Hon JOHN CADWALADER, Judge of the District Court of the United States in and for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to me directed, will be sold at public sale to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at Powen. Seiger & Co.'s store, No. 127 N. Front street, at 12 o'clock M. on FRIDAY, the 19th day of January, 1866. TWENTY THOUSAND CIGARS, packed in one tenth boxes.

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U. S. Marshal for Eastern District of Penna, Philadelphia, January 3, 1866.

FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFES THE FIRE IN CHESNUT STREET Letter from Wells, Fargo & Co.

\$10,000 SAVED IN HERRING'S PATENT SAFE PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 2, 1866.

MESSES FARREL, HERRING & Co.-Gentlemen :-- We have just opened our Safe, one of your manufacture, which passed through the destructive fire in Chesnut street, last night. The Safe was in our office, No. 607. which building was entirely destroyed. The Safe was in a warm place, as you may well suppose, and was red hor when taken out of the embers. We are well satisfied with the result of this trial, and find our books, papers, and some ten thousand dollars in money almost as perfect as when put in the Safe. Nothing is injured, if we except the leather bindings of the books, which are steamed; the money and papers are as good as ever.

Truly yours, WELLS, FARGO & CO., Per J. H. COOK, Agent.

The above Safe can be seen at our store. FARREL, HERRING & CO. No. 629 CHESNUT STREET.

ANOTHERTEST HEBRING'S FIRE-PROOF SAFES. THE FIERY ORDEAL PASSED TRIUMPHANTLY The Herring Sale used in the office of our warehouses, destroyed by the disastrous fire of the night of the 8th Instafft, was subjected to as intense hear as probably any sale will ever be subjected in any fire—so intense that the brass knobs and mountings of the exterior of same were melted off, and the whole surface scaled and bilstered as if it had been in a furnace, and yet when opened the contents—books and papers—were found to be entire and unmigred.

This rate is now on exhibition in our warehouse on Seventh sireet, with the books and papers atili remaining in it just as it was when taken from the ruins. Mer chants, fankers, and others interested in the protection of their books and papers are invited to call andax amine it.

Agent for Herring's Sares,

11 No 558 SEVENTH St., Washington, D. C.

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BROWNE'S METALLIC WEATHER STRIPS

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